

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a human homolog of *Drosophila melanogaster* Reaper (hRpr) protein and to a nucleic acid sequence encoding same. The invention further relates to antibodies specific for hRpr and antisense molecules that bind nucleic acid sequences encoding hRpr. The invention also relates to methods of screening compounds for their ability to enhance or inhibit hRpr activity and to methods of using compounds so identified in therapeutic regimes.

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